

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A prosthetic joint for replacement of a natural joint to resist dislocation, the prosthetic joint comprising:

a liner including an internal concave portion defining an internal concave diameter, and defining an opening having a passage width smaller than said internal concave diameter;

a ball portion having a ball diameter substantially equal to said internal concave diameter; and

a constraining ring cooperating with said opening;

wherein said ball portion includes an equator having a an equator diameter similar to said passage width and smaller than said ball diameter;

wherein said ball portion is adapted to be implanted into said internal concave portion during an operative procedure.

2. (Original) The prosthetic joint of claim 1, further comprising:
a cup adapted to be implanted into a first boney structure; and
a stem adapted to be implanted into a second boney structure;
wherein said ball portion is a head and is adapted to extend from said stem;
wherein said liner is affixed to said cup such that said ball portion is able to
articulate within said internal concave portion.

3. (Original) The prosthetic joint of claim 2, wherein said ball portion further
defines a cylindrical equator having a cylinder diameter to allow said ball portion to be
inserted into said internal concave portion through the opening.

4. (Original) The prosthetic joint of claim 3, wherein said cylinder diameter is
alignable with said opening in only one insertable orientation, said insertable orientation
includes an unnatural orientation of said second boney portion relative to said first
boney portion.

5. (Original) The prosthetic joint of claim 4, wherein said insertable
orientation substantially aligns an axis of said cylindrical equator and said liner.

6. (Original) The prosthetic joint of claim 2, wherein said ball portion and
said stem are substantially modular and operably interconnect for use.

7. (Original) The prosthetic of claim 3, wherein said ball portion generally defines a sphere including an equator and a sphere diameter, wherein said cylinder diameter is formed at said equator such that having a diameter smaller than said sphere diameter.

8. (Original) The prosthetic joint of claim 2, wherein said ball portion is resistant to dislocation from said internal concave portion through interaction of said ball portion with said opening of said liner.

9. (Original) The prosthetic joint of claim 3, wherein said cylindrical equator is disposed at an angle relative to said stem.

10. (Original) The prosthetic joint of claim 1, wherein:
said constraining ring is assembled onto said liner prior to an operative procedure to implant said liner; and
said constraining ring resists a removal of said ball portion from said liner after implantation.

11. (Original) The prosthetic joint of claim 1, further comprising:
said liner is adapted to be fixed directly to a first boney structure; and
a modular stem adapted to be implanted into a second boney structure;
wherein said ball portion is a modular head and is adapted to extend from said
modular stem;
wherein said ball portion is able to articulate within said internal concave portion.

12. (Original) The prosthetic joint of claim 1, wherein:
said constraining ring is assembled onto said liner during an operative procedure
to implant said liner; and
said constraining ring resists a removal of said ball portion from said liner after
implantation.

13. (Original) The prosthetic joint of claim 3, wherein said cylindrical diameter
is operable to allow a flow of a fluid through said cup.

14. – 34. (Cancelled.)

35. (Currently Amended) A prosthetic joint for replacement of a natural joint, the prosthetic joint comprising:

a first prosthesis member including an internal concave portion defining an internal concave diameter;

a second prosthesis member having a selected diameter and defining at least one cylindrical portion about at least a portion of a selected equator of said second prosthesis member;

wherein said ~~ball portion~~ second prosthesis member is adapted to be implanted into said internal concave portion during an operative procedure;

wherein said cylindrical portion is operable to substantially ensure contact with less than the entire internal concave portion.

36. (Currently Amended) The prosthetic joint of claim 35, wherein said first prosthesis member includes a liner operable to resist removal of said second prosthesis member from said internal concave portion after implantation therein.

37. (Currently Amended) The prosthetic joint of claim 35, wherein said second prosthesis member defines at least a portion of a sphere and said cylindrical portion is positioned at a selected equator of said sphere and includes a radius less than a radius of said sphere to a point outside of said cylindrical portion.

38. (Currently Amended) The prosthetic joint of claim 35, wherein said cylindrical portion is operable to allow a selected fluid to flow into said internal concave portion after said second prosthesis member is positioned in said first member.

39. (Currently Amended) A ~~prosthetic~~ prosthesis for replacement of an anatomical portion, comprising:

a first prosthesis member including an internal concave portion defining an internal concave diameter; and

a second prosthesis member having a first diameter substantially equal to said internal concave diameter and defining at least a portion of an equator having a second diameter less than said first diameter;

wherein said second prosthesis member is adapted to be implanted into said internal concave portion during an operative procedure;

wherein said equator substantially eliminates complete contact of said second prosthesis member with said first prosthesis member.

40. (Currently Amended) The prosthetic of claim 39, wherein said second prosthesis member substantially defines a sphere and said equator is an equator of said sphere generally defining a cylindrical portion including a selected height.

41. (Currently Amended) The prosthetic of claim 40, wherein said first prosthesis member and said second member articulate relative to each other;

wherein said equator defined by said second member is operable to reduce wear by contacting said internal concave portions on a surface area less than a surface area of a surface of the sphere.

42. (Currently Amended) The ~~prosthetic~~ prosthesis of claim 39, wherein said equator defined by said second prosthesis member allows a passage into said internal concave portion of said first prosthesis member after said second prosthesis member is implanted relative to said internal concave portion;

wherein a selected fluid may flow into said internal concave portion through said passage.

43. (Currently Amended) The ~~prosthetic~~ prosthesis of claim 39, wherein a passage width of said first prosthesis member is substantially equivalent to said second prosthesis diameter of said second prosthesis member;

wherein said first diameter of said second prosthesis member is greater than said passage width of said first prosthesis member;

wherein said second prosthesis member is operable to be implanted into said first prosthesis member of a first orientation and constrained within said first prosthesis member in a second orientation.

44. (Currently Amended) The ~~prosthetic~~ prosthesis of claim 40, wherein said second prosthesis member defines a transition from said cylindrical portion to reduce a wear on said first prosthesis member.

45. (New) A prosthetic joint for replacement of a natural joint to resist dislocation, the prosthetic joint comprising:

a constrained liner assembly comprising:

a liner member defining an internal concave portion defining an internal concave diameter and defining an opening having a passage dimension smaller than said internal concave diameter;

a constraining ring cooperating with said opening to reinforce and maintain the passage dimension;

a ball portion having a ball diameter substantially equal to said internal concave diameter; and

wherein said ball portion includes an equator having a diameter similar to said passage width;

wherein said ball portion is adapted to be implanted into said internal concave portion during an operative procedure.

46. (New) The prosthetic joint of Claim 45, wherein the constrained liner assembly is pre-assembled.

47. (New) The prosthetic joint of Claim 46, wherein the liner member and the constraining ring are formed from a single member.

48. (New) A prosthesis for replacement of an anatomical portion, comprising:
a first assembly comprising:
a bearing member including an internal concave portion defining an internal concave diameter;
a constraining ring member interconnected with the bearing member near an entrance to the internal concave portion to maintain an entrance dimension; and
a second member having a first diameter substantially equal to said internal concave diameter and defining at least a portion of an equator having a second diameter less than said first diameter;
wherein said second member is adapted to be implanted into said internal concave portion during an operative procedure;
wherein said equator substantially eliminates complete contact of said second member with said first member.

49. (New) The prosthesis of Claim 48, wherein the second member is operable to be positioned in the first assembly while in substantially only one orientation relative to the first assembly.

50. (New) The prosthesis of Claim 49, wherein the one orientation includes when an axis of the equator is substantially aligned with an axis of the entrance.